



## Conservation Action Committee

*January 2004*

### **Vision**

The Conservation Action Committee, working with the Waterbird Conservation Council, will foster awareness and actions to assure the conservation of waterbird species. Emphasis will be given to those species listed as Highly Imperiled or of High Concern. Pressing conservation issues will be addressed in a pro-active manner.

### **1. Scope/Role of Committee.**

- A. The Committee will foster actions to prevent the extinction of all Highly Imperiled or High Concern waterbird species and to foster conservation of all other waterbird species so as to prevent population declines and eventual listings as Highly Imperiled or High Concern.
- B. Priority species will be identified and causes of decline/threats determined and acted upon.
- C. The Committee will strive to inform wildlife managers, avian planning initiatives, regional waterbird plan working groups, policy makers, the press, and public on priority issues affecting waterbirds in need of conservation. Work Groups may be formed to address discrete threats to waterbird species.
- D. The Committee will advise the Council on conservation issues. Collaborative approaches will be emphasized and partnerships built.
- E. The Committee, working with the Communications Committee, will foster communication with its members, the full Council, the conservation community, policy makers, the scientific community, and international partners on pressing conservation issues, including the development of fact sheets.

### **2. Major Objectives.**

- A. Prevent extinctions. Enhance recovery of priority species. Prevent decline of other waterbird species.
- B. Since all 11 of the Waterbird Conservation Plan's Highly Imperiled species are seabirds, and most of the High Concern species also are seabirds, the Committee will act to prioritize the threats facing seabirds, develop plans to resolve them, and foster implementation of the plans.
- C. Prioritize the threats facing other waterbirds listed as of High Concern and of Moderate Concern, develop plans to resolve them, and foster implementation of the plans.
- D. Address the problem of introduced species on seabird breeding islands, especially non-native predators that threaten seabird breeding success.
- E. Address the issue of seabird mortality in longline fisheries and waterbird mortality in gill net fisheries, so as to foster actions that eliminate or at least greatly reduce such mortality.
- F. Address the conflict seen by some between piscivorous waterbirds and prey fish by the application of sound science and meaningful discourse between different factions.
- G. Support efforts to raise funds for waterbird conservation and implementation of the Waterbird Conservation Plan, such as through increased appropriations for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

### **3. Challenges and Opportunities.**

- A. Growing the Council and the Committee, e.g. waterbird specialists, conservation NGOs.
- B. Engaging more international partners for conservation action.
- C. Offering the Council as a forum for debate and solution-development.
- D. Obtaining funding for implementation of the Waterbird Conservation Plan.



# Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

E. Resolving issue of advocacy role v. recommendations and actions by individual members. Perhaps fostering fact sheets and sign-on letters for groups and individuals on issues.

## **2004 Workplan**

### **1. Current membership.**

Gerald Winegrad (Chair)  
Vernon Byrd  
Herb Curl  
Francie Cuthbert

Beth Flint  
Craig Harrison  
Gary Kania  
Pat Patterson

Jim Woehr

Ghisselle Alvarado  
Myra Finkelstein

The Committee will actively pursue and recruit new members. Invitations have been sent to prospective new members with expertise in waterbird conservation. A Vice Chair will be elected.

### **2. Meeting Schedule.**

The Conservation Action Committee will meet at the annual Waterbird Conservation Council meeting and at least every four months thereafter by telephone or at another ornithological meeting. Work groups to address specific waterbird issues will be formed, as needed, with meetings as warranted.

### **3. Action Items.**

\*Analyze, evaluate, and prioritize the threats facing the 11 species of seabirds comprising the Waterbird Conservation Plan's Highly Imperiled species list.

\*Develop strategies for addressing the top-priority threats identified above. These include but are not limited to:

-A strategy for addressing introduced species on key seabird breeding islands, especially non-native predators that threaten seabird breeding success.

-A strategy for awareness of and for addressing seabird mortality in long line fisheries and waterbird mortality in gill net fisheries, so as to foster actions that eliminate or at least greatly reduce such mortality.

\*Work with members of the International Committee and others to ensure that strategies include relevant actions and means beyond U.S.-oriented policies and audiences.

\*To foster implementation of the Waterbird Conservation Plan, support increased Congressional appropriations for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and other Congressional funding sources, gain additional funding through other sources, and coordinate such activities with the Waterbird Conservation Council's Resources Committee.



## Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

**4. Bring opportunities to support waterbird conservation, especially with regard to policy development, to the Waterbird Council for individual and institutional endorsement.**

**5. Work Groups shall be appointed as needed.**